

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2004

Mr. Joshua B. Bolten
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Bolten,

We respectfully request that you designate \$400 million in funding for the Math and Science Partnership program at the Department of Education [No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Title II, Part B] and \$200 million for the Math and Science Partnership Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF) as you consider the Administration's priorities for fiscal year 2006.

We are very grateful for the Administration's request of \$269 million for the Department of Education program in the fiscal year 2005 budget. A request designating \$400 million in fiscal year 2006 will help ensure that we reach the full funding goal of \$450 million by the 2007-2008 school year, when science testing becomes mandatory under the NCLB Act.

It is equally important that the NSF Partnerships be fully funded as they provide a proving ground for competitively selected, innovative ideas that can then receive broader application through the Department's program.


Our knowledge-based economy is driven by constant innovation. The foundation of innovation lies in a dynamic, motivated and well-educated workforce equipped with math and science skills. However, the nature of our workforce and the needs of our industries have changed over time. An understanding of scientific and mathematical principles, a working knowledge of computer hardware and software, and the problem-solving skills developed by courses in science, technology, engineering and math (collectively referred to as "STEM") are now basic skill requirements for many entry-level positions or college majors.

The NCLB Act recognizes the need to ensure the development of these math and science skills. Students already are required to be assessed in math, and science assessments are required by the 2007-2008 school year. The NCLB Act also recognizes that teachers with high levels of content knowledge and access to professional development will most effectively teach their students.

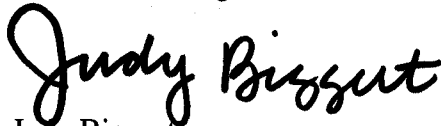
Unfortunately, we are continuing to see disturbing trends in student performance on basic math and science tests. In *The Wall Street Journal*, Intel CEO Craig Barrett commented, "Given how little we expect of our high-school graduates and how other nations are betting on education to fuel innovation, it should come as no surprise that our middle- and high-school students fare poorly on international comparisons of math and science achievement." Students from other countries are outperforming our own. The maintenance of our expertise and prosperity requires that our students dramatically improve their math and science skills.

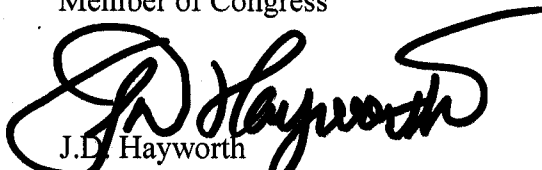
The Math and Science Partnerships in both agencies provide necessary professional development, which strengthens the teachers' ability to effectively teach math and science and strengthens our students' math and science skills. The Math and Science Partnerships provide crucial teacher professional development by linking school districts with university mathematics, science and engineering departments.


We respectfully request that you continue to strengthen our math and science education system by providing sufficient funds to the two Math and Science Partnership programs.



Vernon J. Ehlers
Member of Congress
STEM Education Caucus Co-Chair

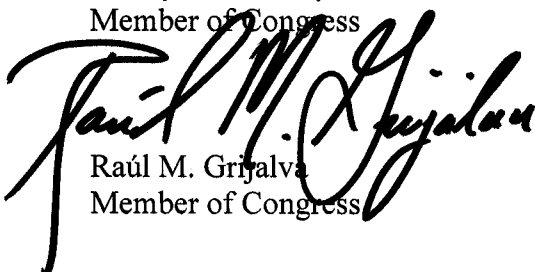

Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress

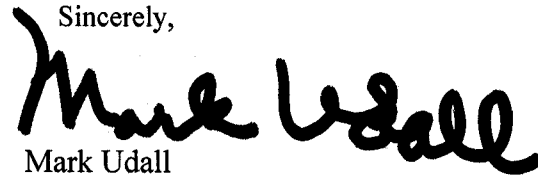

Judy Biggert
Member of Congress



J.D. Hayworth
Member of Congress



Rob Simmons
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

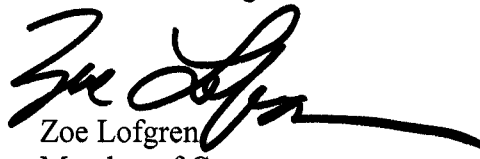

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

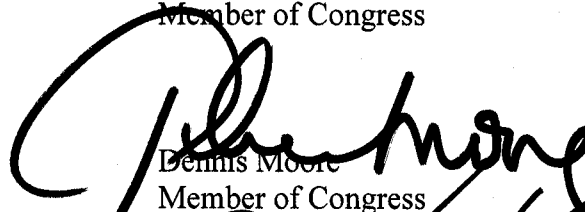
Sincerely,

Mark Udall
Member of Congress
STEM Education Caucus Co-Chair

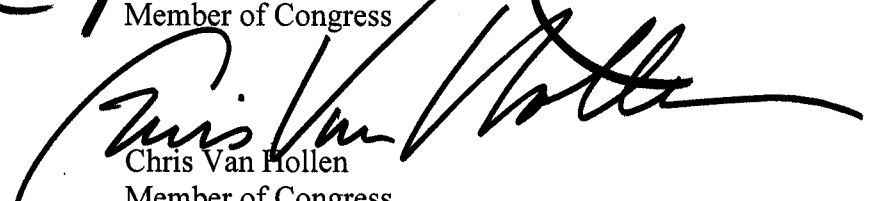

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

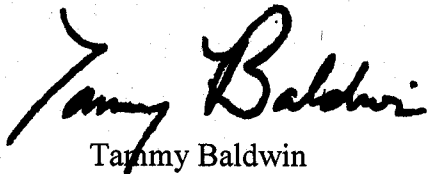

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress


Brad Miller
Member of Congress

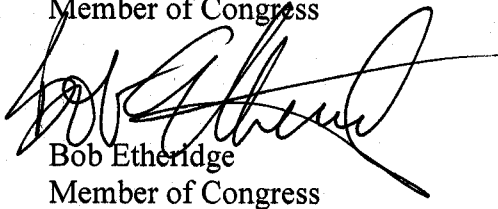

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

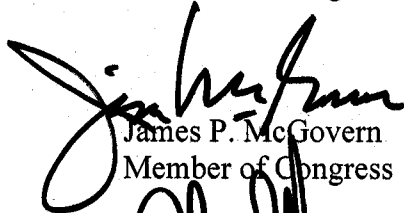

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



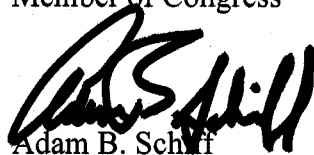
Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress



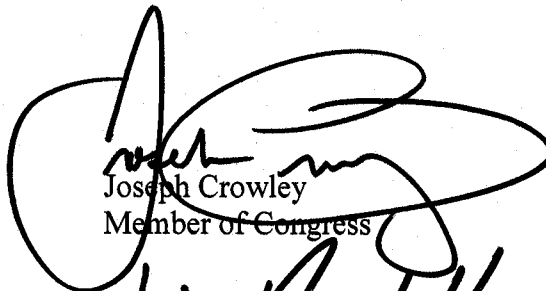
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



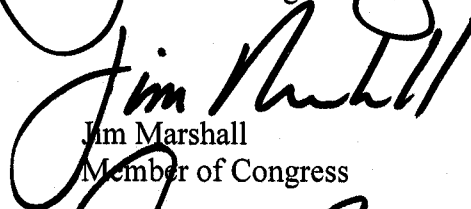
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



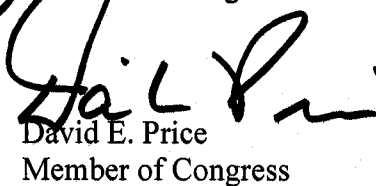
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



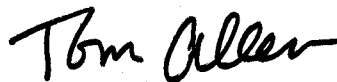
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



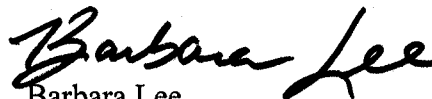
Jim Marshall
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress